



# NEWS RELEASE

VirginiaDOT.org

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## **VDOT TO HOLD ONLINE HURRICANE CHAT THURSDAY, MAY 25**

*Citizens encouraged to submit questions*

VIRGINIA BEACH— Does your family have a Disaster Plan? Knowing what to do before, during, and after the storm could save your life. On Thursday, May 25, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) invites you to ask the experts your toughest hurricane questions in an online web-chat from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Experts from VDOT, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), the National Weather Service, and the Virginia State Police (VSP) will be on hand to help you prepare.

“Each family needs to make a personal commitment to prepare, plan and protect their family for the upcoming Hurricane season. The order to evacuate is a decision made at the governor’s office, but having a plan to protect your family is an individual commitment” quotes Wanda Gill Public Information Specialist for VDOT.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, every citizen should realize - that it could happen to you. Logon to [www.VirginiaDOT.org](http://www.VirginiaDOT.org) and click on the “Hurricane Forum” link to access the web-chat, submit questions, and review information about hurricane evacuation routes. You can also request a free hurricane preparedness and evacuation guide.

In the event of a hurricane, VDOT’s key role is to help motorist get where they need to go safely. Crews work to reopen roads as quickly and safely as possible after a hurricane. Other responsibilities include:

- Setting up traffic control and detours; assisting with traffic control for evacuations
- Removing debris and branches from roadways and coordinating clean-up with other entities, such as power companies
- Making emergency repairs to damaged roads and bridges
- Assessing damages and providing emergency engineering services
- Coordinating long-term recovery to restore transportation infrastructure
- Providing emergency plans and procedures
- Providing back-up communications to support emergency response and recovery operations
- Communicating road condition information to the public

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